President: The question before the House is that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 720 under Demand XXXI—Miscellaneous charges for payment of water tax to the Trivandrum Municipality in respect of the Victoria Jubilee Town Hall for the years 1111 to 1114 M. E.

The motion was put and carried and the grant was made.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS.

THE TRIVANDRUM CITY MUNICIPAL BILL.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai: Sir, I beg to present the report of the joint Committee on the Trivandrum City Municipal Bill.

Mr. James Fletcher: I second it.

THE TRAVANCORE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES BILL.

Mr. Puthupalli S. Krishna Pillai: I beg to move that Mr. K. M. Kesavan be nominated a member to the Joint Committe on the Travancore District Municipalities Bill in the place of Mr Padiyara Joseph Kunju.

Mr. C. V. Chandrasekharan (*Pro-Vice Chancellor*): I second it.

The motion was put and carried.

THE TRAVANCORE CONTRACT BILL.

Mr. Puthupalli S. Krishna Pillai: Sir, I beg to introduce the Travancore Contract Bill as passed by the Assembly. Honourable members might be aware of the fact that this and four other bills relating to commercial laws have been prepared and presented to the Assembly and they have been passed by that House. The attempt is to cure a defect in the existing law. The defect is that no attempt has so far been made for the purpose of codifying these laws. We have been following the Indian Contract Act for the purpose of deciding questions relating to Contracts. No doubt, some attempts have been made to question the correctness of the rules contained in the Indian Contract Act and our High Court have on one or two occasions, refused to be bound by the provisions contained in that Act and have chosen to follow the English law as such law was found to be more consistent with justice, equity and good conscience. It has been thought desirable and, I am quite sure honourable members will agree with me that there must be uniformity in commercial laws. For the purpose of achieving both these purposes this and the succeeding bills have been framed on the basis of the British Indian Acts. The Travancore Contract

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